

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 01012 091624Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 IO-13 /046 W
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P 091555Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6392
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 1012

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR CY TU OVIP (CLIFFORD, CLARK M.)
SUBJECT: CLIFFORD MISSION: CYPRUS AIRPORT PROBLEM

REF: NICOSIA 0379

1. WE HAVE NOT YET RAISED WITH THE GOT THE QUESTION OF WHICH CYPRUS AIRPORT --GREEK CYPRIOT, TURKISH CYPRIOT, OR BRITISH-- WILL BE USED BY THE CLIFFORD MISSION. HOWEVER, WE ARE WORRIED THAT A PROBLEM SIMILAR TO THAT ENCOUNTERED BY WALDHEIM (REFTEL) COULD DEVELOP. ESPECIALLY BECAUSE SECRETARY CLIFFORD WILL BE TRAVELLING DIRECTLY FROM TURKEY TO CYPRUS, USE OF THE GREEK CYPRIOT LARNACA IARPORT (AS RECOMMENDED IN REFTEL) COULD LEAVE CONSIDERABLE SCAR TISSUE IN THE GOT. OF COURSE, IF THE TURKS OBJECT, WE COULD TAKE THE POSITION THAT THE US RECOGNIZES THE GOVT OF CYPRUS, AND THAT WHERE A USG OFFICIAL TRAVELS OUTSIDE TURKEY--EVEN IF IT IS FROM TURKISH SOIL--IS NOT FOR THE GOT TO DECIDE. STILL, IF A WAY CAN BE FOUND TO AVOID GIVING UNDUE OFF-ENSE TO EITHER THE TURKS OR THE GREEK CYPRIOTS, WE WOULD PREFER IT.

2. THEREFORE, WE WONDER WHAT THE COST WOULD BE TO RELATIONS WITH THE GREEK CYPRIOTS IF THE USE OF RAF BASE AKROTIRI WERE ADOPTED AS A COMPROMISE BETWEEN THE TWO COMMUNITIES' AIRPORTS. PERHAPS THE JUSTIFICATION COULD BE USED THAT AKROTIRI OFFERS SAFER
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OPERATING CONDITIONS AND GREATER GROUND SECURITY. FROM A POL-ITICAL STANDPOINT, NICOSIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT WOULD SEEM A GOOD ALTERNATIVE TO AKROTIRI; HOWEVER, WE NOTE FROM REFTEL THAT IT LACKS EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES ESSENTIAL TO SAFELTY AND THAT EMB NICOSIA RECOMMENDS AGAINST ITS USE BY CLIFFORD MISSION.

3. FOR DEPT: WE DO NOT RPT NOT PLAN TO RAISE THIS ISSUE WITH

GOT PENDING A RESPONSE FROM AMB CRAWFORD AND WASHINGTON GUIDANCE.
MACOMBER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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